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Director John F. Carter  
FDIC San Francisco Regional Office  
25 Jessie Street at Ecker Square, Suite 2300  
San Francisco, CA 94105

I am writing regarding Wal-Mart's application for an ILC charter. I am concerned about the long term effects this will have on community banks through out the country. We have seen what has happened to small retail business in rural areas as Wal-Mart has expanded into them. They have a difficult time competing and in many cases have lost that battle and have been forced to close. I live in rural Minnesota, with two towns about 25 miles on either side that are home to a Wal-Mart, so I have seen this first hand. I have no reason not to believe that if Wal-Mart is allowed into banking that this won't begin the same trend with community banks. If this does happen, it puts Wal-Mart into a great position of power over those businesses they directly compete with in retail sales. If the community bank ceases to exist who is going to service the rural small business owner? Are they going to go to Wal-Mart? The same organization they are in direct competition with? I am all for consumer choice. Competition is good but what Wal-Mart is doing is incrementally becoming the only show in town. Eventually, consumers will have few choices as they drive the competition out. Additionally, I take issue with the burden they place on our state tax dollars, by keeping the majority of employees part-time, and not paying any significant benefits. The state winds up picking up the tab when these folks are unable to afford health insurance and then get into a situation where they need it. I work for a small rural bank. All the employees here are full-time. All the employees here receive health insurance benefits, retirement savings, paid vacation, etc. I don't understand why we would approve Wal-Mart's application to enter the banking industry when doing so is just aiding in their destruction of rural main street America.

Sincerely,

Brian Wing  
Loan Officer